



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2100

Applicants: Kazuo SUGAI et al.

Serial No.: 09/622,484

Filed: January 2, 2001

For: NETWORK FORWARDING DEVICE AND NETWORK NEXT-HOP SEARCH METHOD

Group: 2143

Examiner: M. Kianersi

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 16, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 9, 2003, the period for reply thereto being extended by two months by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to expire on December 17, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification and Abstract begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Drawings describing changes to drawings shown in the Appendix are on page 9.

Remarks are included following the amendments

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following the Remarks.